

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1410 8th Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **1201-1399 S 11th Ave**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**
(An historic district number may also apply.)

Historic Address (if applicable): **NA**

County: **Gallatin**

City/Town: **Bozeman**

Historic Name: **Agricultural Experiment Station
Laboratories**

Legal Location

Original Owner(s): **Montana State College, Bozeman**

PM: **Montana** Township: **2S** Range: **5E**

Current Ownership ☐ Private ☒ Public

E ½ SE ¼ NW ¼ of Section: **13**

Current Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Lot(s): **NA**

Owner(s): **Montana State University, Bozeman**

Block(s): **D**

Owner Address: **Administration & Finance
PO Box 172440
Bozeman, MT 59717**

Addition: **Northern Pacific Addn.** Year of Addition:
rev. 1959

USGS Quad Name: **Bozeman** Year: **1995**

Phone:

Historic Use: **Laboratories**

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov/topofinder2

Current Use: **Laboratories**

☐ NAD 27 ☒ NAD 83 (preferred)

Construction Date: **1960** ☐ Estimated ☒ Actual

Zone: **12** Easting: **495910** Northing: **5056888**

☒ Original Location ☐ Moved Date Moved:

National Register of Historic Places

Date of this document: **July 20, 2010**

NRHP Listing Date:

Form Prepared by: **Diana J. Painter, PhD**

Historic District:

Address: **3518 N. C Street, Spokane, WA 99205**

NRHP Eligible: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Daytime Phone: **(707) 364-0697**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Comments:

Eligible for NRHP: ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Date: 11/17/2010

Evaluator: Kate Hampton

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Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

X See Additional Information Page

Architectural Style: **Modern** If Other, specify:

Property Type: **Educational** Specific Property Type: **Laboratory**

Architect: **Unknown** Architectural Firm/City/State:

Builder/Contractor: **Unknown** Company/City/State:

Source of Information:

Location and setting. McCall Hall is located on the west side of the Montana State University – Bozeman campus, in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of S. 11th Avenue and W. Grant Street. It is located within the developed portion of the campus. A field to the west of the building is currently being used for construction staging for renovations of a building to the east. Beyond that is S. 12th Avenue. To the east, beyond S. 11th Avenue, is the Visual Communications Building. To the north is another campus building. On the south side of the building is an enclosed yard being used for satellite and communications equipment, South of that is W. Grant Street and beyond, a large parking lot.

Materials. According to the State of Montana Building Detail Report for McCall Hall, the building is brick masonry on concrete block, with a concrete foundation and a built-up roof. The brick is multi-colored with a combed finish. It has glazed terra cotta detailing, aluminum-frame windows and doors, a metal fascia and metal coping. Some windows are glazed with colored and textured glass.

Massing and design. McCall Hall is a one-story building with a U-shaped footprint and a flat roof. The building is oriented toward the east, and overlooks S. 11th Avenue. It is a small (10,488 square foot) laboratory building that was constructed in 1952.

West façade. The west façade of the building presents the main entry, at the 'bottom' of the "U" shape, and the two end walls of the wings. The recessed entry is at the left or south side of the main north-south wing. It consists of a double entry door with full-height glass, two broad sidelights, and three transom windows, all with wood frames. The edge of the soffit here aligns with the narrow eaves on the remainder of the building on this face.

North of the entry is a bank of aluminum-frame windows with terra cotta-clad sills, covered by narrow eaves that have a deep fascia and is finished with a narrow coping. The windows have three lights each, a large central light and two smaller lights, and are separated by wider mullions. They are arranged in a complex pattern of 2:1:2:1:1:1:2:1:2:1:1 here and throughout the building. Clear glazing alternates with colored and textured glass, with many of the central lights are blue. Sills are glazed terra cotta or tile with a mottled pattern. The walls below the sills and at each end are finished in brick cladding. The concrete foundation here is slightly raised, about 18" above grade.

The south wing here is longer and wider than the north wing. The end wall on the south wing is finished in brick with no openings. The end wall on the north wing has a bank of windows similar to the central portion of the west façade, with a wide brick wall on the north side.

North façade. The north façade of the building exhibits a bank of windows that extends across nearly the entire façade. It has very narrow eaves, but otherwise features the same materials and design details as the west façade. The concrete stem wall here is relatively high. Windows again display a complex rhythm of narrow and wide lights. Many of the large central lights here are blue or pale green.

East façade. The east façade is the rear façade of the building. Banks of windows here alternate between windows similar to those on the other facades, and banks of shorter windows placed high under the eaves. A recessed entry is located toward the north side of this façade, accessed via concrete steps with a tubular metal rail. The entry door is a double door with small lights in the upper portion, surmounted by a transom window.

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Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

South façade. The south façade of the building has two parts. The east side, which is brick-clad, has a slightly higher roofline and no fascia. There is one flush metal door here. The west side has a lower roofline with no eaves and a fascia typical of those found throughout the building. There is a recessed entry here with a single metal door with one light and a transom window, accessed by two concrete steps. Flanking the entry are windows of nine lights each that exhibit a similar design as those found throughout the building, and concrete sills.

Site design and landscaping. Prior to this site's use as a staging area for nearby construction, it consisted primarily of lawn with a few mature shrubs/trees. This is still the case in the front court of the building. The rear (west) side is enclosed with a cyclone fence and is being used for staging. The south side of the building is enclosed with a cyclone fence and is being used for satellite dishes. The unattractiveness of this site has been noted on a campus blog, which says it is "cluttered by unsightly mess," but these features are, in theory, temporary.

Changes over time. There is one small replacement window on the rear of the building. Some glass may have been replaced. But the building as a whole has excellent integrity.

McCall Hall was constructed as a research laboratory of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. Its purpose was described as follows in a 1954 article: "Investigations in this laboratory are devoted almost exclusively to the determination of specific causes of major livestock diseases which occur in Montana, and the development of effective remedies adapted to farm and ranch conditions in Montana" (*The Billings Gazette, February 1, 1954, p. 10*). Today it is used as a "chemistry analytical laboratory and an education technology lab," according to the University's own description. The Agricultural Experiment Station Analytical Laboratory is still housed there.

When developed, the building was overseen by Clyde McKee. McKee had been with the University since 1921, when he was appointed head of the agronomy department. He was appointed the Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in 1937. McKee left this position to become chief agriculturalist in Lebanon and director of the experiment station in Beirut in 1958.

In addition to being a laboratory, the building was also used to house part of the School of Film & Photography beginning in the 1960s. The School of Film & Photography at MSU – Bozeman was created in the 1960s, with three majors: photography, film and television. At that time the building was referred to as the "Chemistry Research-TV Building." A TV station was installed there in 1974.

The Chemistry Research-TV Building was re-named McCall Hall in 1968, after William H. McCall, one of MSU's registrars and English professors. In 1975 there was a proposal to renovate the building for a Film and TV Department, but it failed in state budget reviews. In 1984 the program moved into the new Visual Communications Building just east of McCall Hall. The yard on the south side of the building, however, still contains a dense array of satellites and communications equipment.

It is likely that the architect for this building was Fred F. Willson, but this has not been confirmed. Willson was designing a number of agricultural buildings for the University at this time, and also the Agricultural Experiment Station building in Sidney (in 1949). Further research would have to be done to confirm his involvement.

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Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**

INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

X See Additional Information Page

"Agricultural Dean Resigns for Lebanon Position," *The Independent Record*, July 3, 1958, p. 2.

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"College board may rename old buildings," *The Montana Standard*, September 4, 1968, p. 6.

"History of the School of Film & Photography," *Montana State University*, <http://mta.montana.edu/alumni/docs/depthistory.html>, accessed July 2010.

Long Range Campus Development Plan. Prepared for and by Facilities Services – Planning Design & Construction, Montana State University, December 2008.

McDonald, James R., *Bozeman Historic Resource Survey*. Prepared for: Bozeman City-County Planning Board, Bozeman, MT. Prepared by: James R. McDonald Architects, P.C., Missoula, MT, August 1984.

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INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Strahn, Derek, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana*, January 21, 1995.

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Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:

NRHP Eligibility: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☒ Individually ☒ Contributing to Historic District ☐ Noncontributing to Historic District

NRHP Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Area of Significance: **EDUCATION/ARCHITECTURE** Period of Significance: **1960**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

☐ See Additional Information Page

McCall Hall is significant as a good example of a small scale, post-war academic building, in this case a laboratory. Its form and detailing are characteristic of a post-war academic building. It is particularly characteristic for the fact that it uses materials – multi-colored brick, terra cotta and colored and textured glass – as its decorative elements and relies on composition in enhances the simple building form. If the MSU – Bozeman campus was surveyed for the purpose of developing a historic district, it would a good example of the campus' post-war development.

The building is also significant because of its association with MSU-Bozeman as the state's primary Land Grant university. The building was developed as a state-of-the-art laboratory to assist with the state's livestock and range management programs in the post-war era. The university's leadership role in this area should be explored in any historic context developed for the university as a whole, including the post-war era.

INTEGRITY

☐ See Additional Information Page

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Its setting has been somewhat altered by the addition of a field of satellites and communication equipment on the south side, but these are not permanent installations.

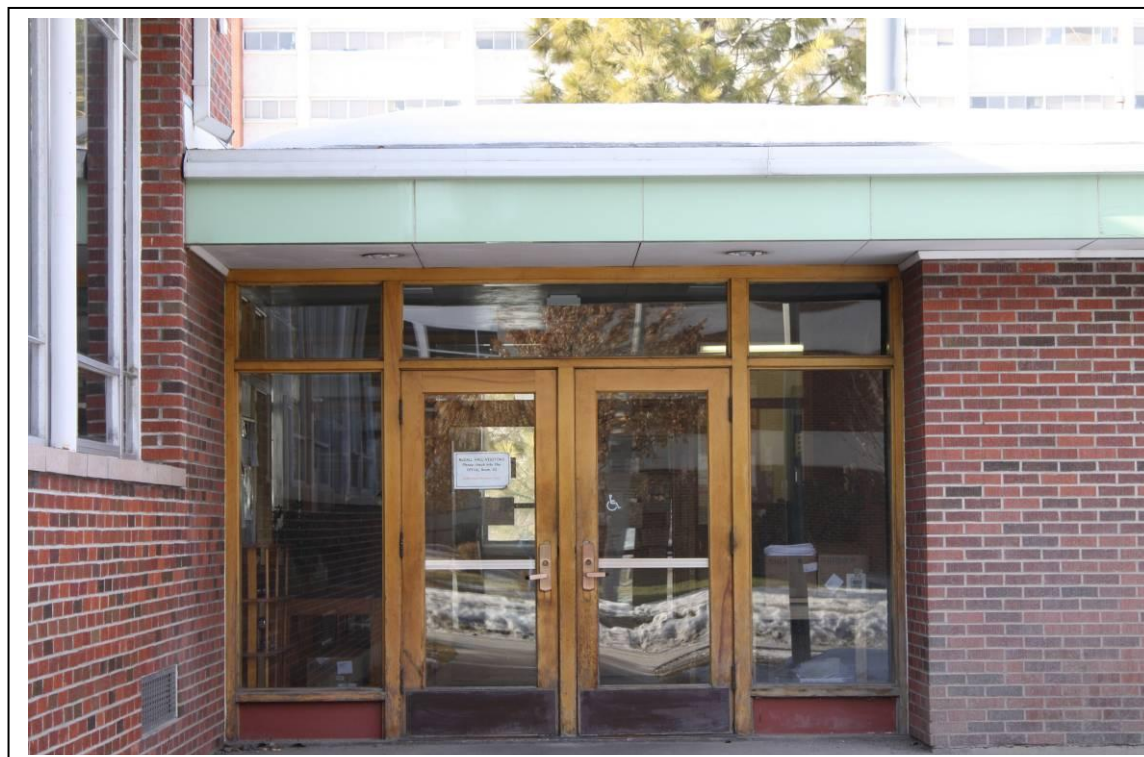
MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **McCall Hall**

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Description: **Southerly wing, viewed from west**



Description: **Entry, south side of north-south wing, viewed from west**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **McCall Hall**

Site Number: **24 GA 1799**



Description: **Main west façade (door to immediate left)**



Description: **North façade, viewed from east**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **McCall Hall**

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Description: **South side of west (rear) facade**



Description: **South façade, viewed from east**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
SITE MAP

Property Name: **McCall Hall**

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Property Name: **McCall Hall**

A topographic map of the Montana State University area. The map shows various features including buildings, roads, and terrain. A red circle is drawn around a specific location, with a red arrow pointing to it from the left. The map includes labels for 'Montana State University', 'Athletic Field', 'Sunset Hills Cemetery', and various elevation points like '4864T', '4899T', '4909T', '4941T', '4956T', '4829T', '4912T', and '4900'. It also shows 'South 197th Ave', '15th Ave', '17th Ave', 'Wilson Ave', 'Grange', 'Railroad', 'Creek', 'Park', 'Well', and 'Grave'. The map is overlaid with a grid and contour lines.